Corruption in Government Services

†82. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Vigilance Commission have submitted certain suggestions to Government to make the administration corruption free;

(b) if so, what are those suggestions;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision regarding implementation of these suggestions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) In his address to the nation on 16.10.99 the Prime Minister declared that principle of zero tolerance will be applied by the Government while dealing with corruption. As a sequel to this, the Central Vigilance Commissioner sent a note to all Secretaries to the Government of India with his letter dated 26th October, 1999 indicating what action could be taken to implement the vision of zero tolerance to check corruption asking comments on the following suggestions:—

1. Corruption perception index of all Govt. Departments, Public Sector Enterprises, Banks etc.
2. Zero tolerance of corruption should be a principle not only from the demand side to public servants and Govt. Departments but also from the supply side.
3. Annual Property Returns by Members of Parliament and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Ministers.

4. Mobilising the youth to fight corruption.

5. Central Vigilance Commission Bill must be made into Law.

6. Trap and speedy disciplinary action through departmental action.

7. Encourage the whistle blowing and pass the Whistle Blower Act.

8. Freedom of Information Act for empowering the public.

9. E-Governance and the use of information technology to check corruption.

10. Remove obsolete laws through sunset principles.

11. Remove laws and systems that promote corruption.

12. Enact corrupt Public Servants (Forfeiture of Property) Act.

13. Implement the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988.

(c) and (d) 1. The Central Vigilance Commission Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20.12.1999. The Bill stands referred to the joint Committee of both the Houses of Parliament on 21.12.1999 for consideration and its recommendations.

2. The Government set up a Working Group on 'Right to Information and Transparency' in January, 1997 which submitted its report to the Government on 21st May, 1997. The recommendation made by the Working Group was examined comprehensively and a Draft Bill prepared for the purpose has been revised on the recommendations finalised by the Group of Ministers on February 2, 2000. Accordingly, action has been initiated to introduce the Bill in the Parliament.

3. Besides, the Central Vigilance Commission has been vested powers vide para 3 (v) of Department of Personnel & Training Resolution No. 371/20/99-AVD. III dated 4th April, 1999 to exercise

superintendence over the vigilance administration. The Commission has issued several instructions to reduce the scope of corruption such as creating a culture of honesty, greater transparency in administration, speedy departmental inquiries in a time bound manner, prominently displaying a standard notice board at each office for educating the public not to pay bribe, effective punishment through traps, electronics clearance system and computerisation of banks, sensitising the public etc. The Central Vigilance Commission has also issued Special Chapters on vigilance management in public sector banks and public sector undertakings.

4. On the initiative of the Government, over 40 Departments undertook through expert task forces or by internal exercises, a detailed review of all laws, regulations and procedures administered by them including those involving approval of State Projects. Action has been initiated by a number of Ministries/Departments to bring about suitable amendments/modifications in or repeal of Acts and Laws being administered by them.

5. The Law Commission of India by its letter dated 4.2.1999 forwarded its 166th Report on "The Corrupt Public Servants (Forfeiture of Property) Bill" to the Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs who laid the Report on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 28th October, 1999. No final view has been taken by the Government on the issue.

Discrimination in Posting of Women Officers of All India Services

83. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that women officers of All India Services are not getting adequate postings at the Centre;

(b) whether arcane procedures are acting as a hindrance in placing such officers; and

(c) what steps are proposed to enhance the representation of women at higher levels?